

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 08003 110820Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----051438 110824Z /15  
O 110800Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4446

S E C R E T TEHRAN 8003

EXDIS

FOR ATHERTON FROM SULLIVAN

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ZP US IR  
SUBJ: PRM 10

1. TEHRAN RADIO, TELEVISION AND PRESS ARE PROMINENTLY PLAYING AP STORY FROM WASHINGTON WHICH STATES THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS DECIDED TO INCLUDE PERSIAN GULF AND SPECIFICALLY IRAN WITHIN SCOPE OF U.S. DEFENSE OBLIGATIONS. STORY, WHICH YOU HAVE DOUBTLESS SEEN, ATTRIBUTES THIS DECISION TO THE CONTENTS OF PRM 10.

2. I DON'T KNOW WHAT CURRENT WASHINGTON VIEW IS WITH RESPECT TO SHARING TEXTS OF PRMS WITH AMBASSADORS. FROM VARIOUS COLUMNISTS' ARTICLES, PRM 10 SEEMS TO BE ON BEST-SELLER LIST IN GEORGETOWN, JUST AHEAD OF CRASH OF 79.

3. HOWEVER WASHINGTON WISHES TO HANDLE THIS, I WILL NEED SOME FORM OF OFFICIAL GUIDANCE SOON IN ORDER TO HANDLE INEVITABLE INQUIRY FROM THE SHAH. HE WOULD NATURALLY BE DELIGHTED WITH THIS STORY, IF IT IS TRUE. HIS PROBABLE REACTION WOULD BE TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY EXPLORING WAYS IN WHICH CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR THIS DECISION COULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

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4. IF THE STORY IS NOT RPT NOT TRUE I NEED TO BE GIVEN SOME FORMULA BY WHICH I CAN EASE SHAH AWAY FROM ITS EXTENSIVE REPERCUSSIONS BEFORE THE FIGMENTS OF THE REPORT ASSUME REALITY IN THE IRANIAN ESTABLISHMENT. THIS WOULD REQUIRE SOME CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

5. IT IS NOT RPT NOT CLEAR TO ME WHAT EFFECT THE STORY IS LIKELY

TO HAVE ON THE AWACS CASE. I PRESUME THAT CRITICS OF THE SALE  
WILL HAVE A NEW ISSUE IN WHICH THEY WILL FLAY THE PRM AS A PLAN  
TO DEFEND "A BRIDGE TOO FAR". WHETHER THAT WILL BE OFFSET BY  
THOSE WHO SEE THE PRM AS CONCRETE JUSTIFICATION FOR AWACS IS HARD  
FOR ME TO JUDGE. IN ANY EVENT, I BELIEVE ADMINISTRATION WITNESSES  
AND FRIENDLY LEADERSHIP WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE FORTIFIED WITH AN  
AGREED LINE OF TESTIMONY WHICH ADHERES IN CAREFUL TERMS TO  
WHATEVER THE FACTS IN THIS CASE MAY BE.

6. I WILL APPRECIATE EARLY GUIDANCE.  
SULLIVAN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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